

**TOWN OF HADDAM
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 REGULAR MEETING
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM
 WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2015
 UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Stephen Bayley
X	Joe Bergin
A	Dan Dachelet
X	Mike Farina
A	Mike Fortuna, Chairman
X	Ed Vynalek
X	Liz West Glidden, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bergin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Joe Bergin moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Ed Vynalek second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

a. Update on Meeting Chairman had with First Selectman and Town Planner

Mrs. Glidden reported that a number of items were discussed such as the commission, goals, and sewer. Mrs. Glidden also reported that at the end of the meeting it was determined that a cost benefit analysis would be beneficial. Mrs. Glidden will try to identify some grants.

Mrs. Glidden reported that P&Z is working on identifying sites for an Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) as well as regulations; and that if the state approves the site(s), the town can apply for the next round of funding which could be used to pay for a cost benefit analysis for sewer.

Discussion followed in regard to the stakeholders needing to show interest and drive in the need for sewer in Higganum Center. Mrs. Glidden stated she would like to see the Commission reach out to the property and business owners who have a vested interest in this area. Discussion followed in regard to the Higganum Vision Group (HVG) presentation held in October and the number of people who attended the meeting who were not in favor of sewer and the need to educate people about the process. Mr. Bergin stated that the Commission had discussed holding a public information meeting; and asked if this came up at the meeting with Ms. Schlag. Mrs. Glidden stated that it did come up and believes Ms. Schlag feels the information currently available is not sufficient to take to a public meeting, that further

research needs to be done. Mr. Farina asked if the discussion pertained to hooking up with Mattabasett or developing an engineered system. Mr. Bergin stated that the Commission had spoken about each. Mr. Farina stated that he had been through a similar situation while living in Coventry and talked about the process.

Mrs. Glidden stated that operation and maintenance costs of sewer, which could be costly, were discussed, but that the business owners are aware of that. Mrs. Glidden also stated that there are a number of other factors – quality of life, attraction, etc., - other than cost that should be considered. Mrs. Glidden stated that if the Center is to be a more attractive serviceable area that will benefit the entire town not just those directly involved, than this matter needs to be addressed. Mr. Bergin talked about developing the tax base areas – Tylerville and Higganum Center – while leaving the remainder of the town residential. Discussion followed in regard to the water quality in Tylerville with Mrs. Glidden reporting that a lot has taken place, but it appears as if the momentum is dying.

Mr. Farina discussed the revitalization of old Coventry and the groups that assisted in doing so. Mr. Farina also discussed the need for getting the various groups in town to work for a common goal rather than individual goals. Discussion followed in regard to the potential benefits of sewer within the Center.

Mrs. Glidden discussed the need for building trust and interest in a project(s). Mr. Vynalek discussed the Deerfield (MA) Project – plantings along the causeway and the town doing something similar with the streams in Higganum Center. Mr. Farina briefly discussed a daffodil fundraiser that was held in Coventry.

The Commission identified various groups that may be of assistance: Conservation Commission, Garden Club, Higganum Vision Group, Land Trust, Lions, Boy and Girl Scouts, Historical Society, school district, Veterans' Group, and seniors. Also discussed was how to fund the project; if there was a landscaping plan with the state bridge project (not yet); and each commissioner look to see if a town has done a planting project, what they planted, and how they went about it.

Mr. Bergin briefly discussed the potential for a community garden.

b. Discussion of Agenda for the Upcoming Year

Tabled.

c. Update on Budget

Mrs. Glidden reported that there is \$912 remaining in the Marketing line item that will need to be used by the end of June.

6. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Ed Vynalek moved to approve the 12 November 2014 minutes as submitted. Mike Farina second. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Joe Bergin moved to adjourn. Ed Vynalek second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bunny Hall Batzner
Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 March 2015.